

Remarks

The Examiner's rejection of all claims is respectfully traversed. Claims 2 – 4 have been canceled, and claim 1 has been amended to more particularly claim the invention. Claim 1 has been made more specific in the description of the indent and its relationship with the pin. The indent is a rectangularly shaped recess having first and second ends and at least partial first and second sides. Copies of Figs. 13 and 13a are enclosed as part of these Remarks to illustrate the claim amendments.

Indent 56 in Fig. 13 (without the pin) is a rectangularly shaped recess having first and second ends and at least partial first and second sides communicating with the post-receiving opening. Fig 13a (with pin) illustrates how the indent first and second ends and at least partial first and second sides engage the pin ends and cylindrically shaped pin body portion. Since the indent is a recess, the pin sits within the recess as shown in Fig. 13a.

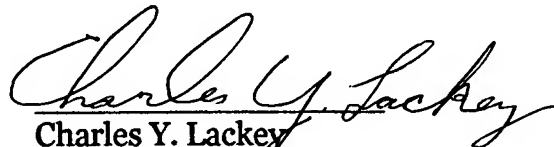
The Twellmann reference does not have a pin-receiving recess, but has an opening 58 in the guide rod 10. At both its ends, pin 56 extends for a part of its length out of the guide rod 10. See column 4, beginning at line 16. The Twellmann pin 56 is maintained in position by pressure exerted by the supporting sleeve 42 from the bottom and the clamping sleeve 30 from the top. Irregularly shaped holes 57, 58 are contoured so that the pin is tightly gripped when force or weight is applied from the shelf and its supported material.

Applicant's shelf structure and supporting components are positive in the assembly process simply allowing the shelf to be lowered onto the pin which has been inserted through pin-receiving apertures in the post. No force is need to seat the shelf in this locked position on the pin, and the confining pin ends and at least partial first and second sides keep the pin in an exact position within the formed recess. The pin cannot be removed unless the shelf is lifted and the pin extracted from the recess. No clamping sleeve above the shelf or supporting sleeve below the shelf is needed. No irregularly shaped pin-receiving recesses are needed, only conventional circular apertures. An additional significant advantage arises from the ability to mold the shelf with the formed recess in a one step operation.

It is submitted that claims 1, 5 and 6 as amended now avoid the Examiner's objections and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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